

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 SMS-01 SES-02 SAA-01 SSM-03 /083 W  
-----021651 301647Z /43

P 301625Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6225  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 20846

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, LE, IS, SY, UR  
SUBJECT: SOVIET COVERAGE OF LEBANESE SITUATION;  
KHADDAM'S ARRIVAL

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. SUMMARY. SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER  
KHADDAM ARRIVED MOSCOW AUGUST 29 AMIDST SOVIET PRESS'  
HEIGHTENED CONCERN ABOUT SITUATION IN LEBANON AND  
CONTINUING ATTENTION TO ALLEGED U.S. PLANS TO  
ESTABLISH MILITARY PRESENCE IN MIDDLE EAST. LOCAL  
DIPLOMATS HAVE NO HARD INFORMATION ON REASON FOR  
KHADDAM'S VISIT BUT SPECULATION FOCUSES ON HIS  
PRESUMED DESIRE TO COORDINATE PLANS WITH SOVIETS  
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IN REGARD TO CAMP DAVID AND LEBANON, AND DBTAIN  
ARMS. END SUMMARY. END CONFIDENTIAL.

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SOVIET PRESS AUGUST 30  
ANNOUNCES SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM'S  
ARRIVAL AUGUST 29 ON "OFFICIAL, FRIENDLY VISIT AT  
INVITATION OF SOVIET GOVERNMENT." GROMYKO GREETED

KHADDAM AT AIRPORT.

2. PRESS SAME DAY CONCENTRATES ITS MIDDLE EAST REPORTING ON LEBANESE SITUATION (IN CONTRAST, THERE CONTINUES TO BE SPARSE COVERAGE OF PREPARATIONS FOR CAMP DAVID). UNDER HEADLINE "ESCALATION OF TENSION," TASS ITEM IN PRAVDA REPORTS FROM BEIRUT A STATEMENT OF LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICIAL MRUYE (PHONETIC) THAT CONSERVATIVE CIRCLES ARE "AIMING AT A NEW SHARPENING" OF THE SITUATION "IN COLLUSION" WITH ISRAEL. MRUYE IS REPORTED DECLARING IN "AL KHURRIYA" INTERVIEW THAT SITUATION IS NOW MORE DANGEROUS THAN EVER. TASS ITEM ALSO NOTES "PROVOCATIVE STATEMENTS" ISSUING FROM "LEBANESE FRONT" GIVING RISE TO RUMORS ABOUT POSSIBLE DIRECT ISRAELI INTERVENTION, AND THREATS BEING MADE BY "ISOLATIONISTS" IN SOUTH LEBANON ABOUT CREATING A "FREE REPUBLIC OF LEBANON" ALONG ISRAELI BORDER.

3. TASS ITEM DATELINED DAMASCUS, ALSO CARRIED IN PRAVDA, REPORTS MEETING OF PRESIDENT ASSAD WITH LEBANESE FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTER BUTROS AT WHICH THE "ACTIVIZATION OF RIGHTIST CONSERVATIVE FORCES AND THE DANGER OF DIRECT ISRAELI INTERFERENCE IN LEBANESE EVENTS" WAS DISCUSSED.

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4. MILITARY DAILY RED STAR AUGUST 30 CARRIES TASS REPORT FROM NEW YORK QUOTING AT LENGTH CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR ARTICLE SUGGESTING ADMINISTRATION IS CONSIDERING SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN ITS "TECHNICAL ADVISERS" IN SINAI. TASS REPORT CITES MONITOR AS STATING THIS WOULD BE FIRST STEP IN U.S. PLANS TO ESTABLISH A REGIONAL MILITARY BLOC OF A NATO TYPE. TASS ITEM CONTINUES (IT IS NOT CLEAR FROM THIS POINT WHERE CSM ENDS AND TASS BEGINS) THAT BRZEZINSKI HAS LONG PLAYED WITH THIS "DANGEROUS IDEA" WHICH, IN HIS VIEW, WOULD RESULT IN A BLOC EMBRACING ISRAEL, SOME CONSERVATIVE ARAB REGIMES, INCLUDING EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA, AND U.S.

5. MOST RECENT WEEKLY JOURNAL NOVOYE VREMYA FOCUSES ON ALLEGED U.S./NATO PLANS FOR INTERVENTION IN MIDDLE EAST. SIGNED ARTICLE ENTITLED "BACK TO DULLES, OR IS IT CECIL RHODES?" NOTES PRESS REPORTS ABOUT "SPECIAL TASK FORCES" BEING PREPARED FOR INTERVENTION IN THE PERSIAN GULF AREA AND HOLDS THAT "NOW, ON THE EVE OF CARTER'S MEETING WITH BEGIN AND SADAT AT CAMP DAVID, THE PUBLIC HAS LEARNED OF PLANS TO STATION

AMERICAN TROOPS IN SINAI AND THE WEST BANK AS  
'GUARANTORS' OF THE PROPOSED PSEUDO-SETTLEMENT IN  
THE MIDDLE EAST." ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY QUOTING  
BEIRUT NEWSPAPER AL-KAIDA ALLEGATION THAT "NATO  
CIRCLES ARE STUDYING A PLAN OF ESTABLISHING A JOINT  
AFRO-ASIAN FORCE MADE UP OF CHINESE, IRANIAN AND  
EGYPTIAN PERSONNEL" TO FIGHT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS  
IN ASIA, AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA. END UNCLASSIFIED.

6. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH PRESS  
HAS BEEN FOCUSING ON LEBANESE SITUATION FOR SOME  
WEEKS, LATEST REPORTING COMBINED WITH ANNOUNCEMENTS  
OF KHADDAM'S ARRIVAL AND ASSAD'S MEETING WITH  
LEBANESE OFFICIALS CONVEYS CLEAR MESSAGE NEW "CRISIS"  
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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 20846

MAY BE IN THE OFFING.

7. WE HAVE NO HARD INFORMATION ON REASON FOR  
KHADDAM'S VISIT. EGYPTIAN CHARGE SPECULATED TO US  
EVENING AUGUST 30 THAT SYRIANS AND SOVIETS ARE  
COORDINATING PLANS AND PROPAGANDA IN ADVANCE OF  
CAMP DAVID, AND PROBABLY IN RELATION TO  
LEBANON, AND THE SOVIETS ARE GREATLY CONCERNED  
SOMETHING POSITIVE MIGHT RESULT FROM THE  
TRILATERAL SUMMIT. PERHAPS OF INTEREST IN LIGHT  
OF DAMASCUS 05054, LEBANESE DCM DECLINED TO SEE  
EMBOFF AUGUST 31 SAYING HE WOULD BE TIED UP BECAUSE  
OF KHADDAM'S VISIT, BUT GAVE APPOINTMENT FOR FOLLOWING  
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DAY. PAKISTAN CHARGE TOLD US AUG. 30 THAT KHADDAM  
IS ALMOST CERTAINLY AFTER ARMS AND WILL ALMOST  
CERTAINLY SUCCEED IN GETTING THEM. GARRISON

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## Message Attributes

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